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Morse's Raiders

The United States Senate Thursday clipped the wings of the Kennedy Administration by banning foreign aid to Yugoslavia and the United Arab Republic.

It also approved an amendment limiting aid to Indonesia and finally, to round out a day's work, banned aid to nations whose fishing policies are judged to violate freedom of the seas.

All this has been brought about, we suspect, by a case of Congressional jitters. Reiterated throughout the Congressional Record by Senator Wayne Morse and others is the fear that the system of checks and balances has gone out of whack and the executive branch has gained too much control. And nobody, but nobody, is going to rob the Senate of its power.

What the Senators probably mean is that they would like any disproportion in the system of checks and balances to favor them.

Some Senators are outraged by the Central Intelligence Agency and claim it is their prerogative to ride herd over it. The Senators are equally upset over so-called highhandedness on the part of other agencies of the executive branch, particularly the State De-

partment, whose major sin seems to be that it can get along without the Senate.

The view of Mr. Morse is that the Administration should not be allowed to run unchecked on its foreign aid appropriations. He criticizes the administration of the aid, and said it was up to the Senate to write in reforms.

Apparently anticipating criticism, Mr. Morse in his opening speech a week ago Monday said he was not advocating that Congress determine foreign policy. But this is precisely what the Senate, in all its collective wisdom, is doing. If the Administration doesn't like it, well that's too bad, according to Senator Morse, because it is the Senate's responsibility to see that the government is run properly and that tax money is looked after with diligence.

There are, incidentally, another 47 amendments waiting in the wings, each with the specific purpose of paring the \$3,742,365,000 foreign aid proposal or restricting how the funds will be used.

Conceivably it will pass a 48th, naming Senator Morse its Secretary of State.